

I am not a public speaker, I am a farmer. This project is threatening my way of life and my livelihood. I have many concerns about the building of industrial turbines in this area as I have stated in my previous submissions. These include health concerns, road and traffic issues, bush-fire risks and reduced saleability of our property.

However, the main concerns that I have relates to Section 17 and 18 of the Department of Planning document dealing with Water Pollution from the site.

All the creeks and waterways on the Rye Park side of the hill range flow into the Pudman Creek and it is the lifeline of the valley. Our climate is changing for whatever reason with the summers now hotter and drier, droughts are more frequent and rainstorms more violent. We are dependent on the creek for watering the majority of our stock. We would also depend on it to protect our home in the event of a fire, especially with the added risk cause by wind turbine developments.

My concerns are that the clearing of 285 hectares of native vegetation, a figure that could increase yet again due to the allowing of 'micro-siting' of turbines, combined with the construction of footings, hardstands and connecting roads will cause:

1. massive erosion affecting the quality of water in the creek.
2. dumping of sediment which will fill the waterholes in the creeks reducing water quality and availability and killing aquatic life.
3. changing of the watercourse directions impacting the amount of water in the creek

My personal concern is for the Flakney Creek because it joins the Pudman on my property and so supplements our water supply. But the same issue is relevant for all the watercourses. Dams go dry but the waterholes in the Pudman never have. If they fill with sediment we will have no water. Who will compensate us when we have to buy and cart water for the stock or worse still move? Who would want to buy a place without dependable water especially when combined with overpowering views of wind turbines?

Each turbine footings and base will be 25m x 60m x 2m in volume and require the removal of 3000 cubic metres of rock. The type of rock is shale not basalt as was stated in the original EA. Shale is defined as "*grained sedimentary rock that forms from the compaction of silt and clay-size mineral particles*" in other words mud. When disturbed it is highly erodible. How do the proponents plan to prevent the inevitable erosion? Also, where will all the rock excavated from the site be sent? It cannot be used as a road-base as it crumbles to dust under pressure.

The Dept of Planning Approval states that the turbine proponents must follow the 'Managing **Urban** Stormwater: Soils and Construction' guidelines to minimise soil erosion, even though the document states '*it does not consider farming land*' (Section 6.1.1(a)). These turbines are built on land that is higher and steeper than anything built in an urban environment and the water is more precious to the people, animals and plants and so these 'guidelines' are woefully inadequate.

There is already obvious severe erosion on tracks and access roads going up into the hills and these tracks are used by much small and lighter traffic than is being proposed. The Capital Wind project at Lake George is a prime example of serious erosion caused by building turbines. What guarantees from the government or the proponents do we have that this will not be allowed to happen here as it did there and who will be the independent person to monitor the situation throughout the life of the project?

The Pudman Creek is classified by the Department of Fisheries as a healthy creek. There are platypuses, turtles and native fish living there and, because it is one of a handful of waterways in NSW without carp or redfin infestations which decimate the native fish population, the endangered Southern Pygmy Perch have been introduced into the Pudman Creek in an effort to save them from extinction. Pudman Creek was selected because it has good habitat in the form of excellent aquatic vegetation and is a reliable water source. This was stated by Luke Pearce, who is now the Fisheries Conservation Manager for the NSW Department of Industry and Investment, in his 2015 survey report of the Pudman Creek. Increased sedimentation and the resulting loss of aquatic vegetation will result in the loss of these fish.

Because the turbines are being situated on the high points of the range and in such numbers then numerous gullies will need to be filled to create roads and run cables to interconnect each turbine. This will result in the changing of watercourses. If the rock excavated from the turbine sites is used to fill the gullies it will increase sediment run-off.

Winter downpours on hilltops and hillsides that have been stripped of vegetation and have nothing to hold the soil in place will erode, and sediment made from mud millions of years ago will return to mud and devastate our life-giving creeks.

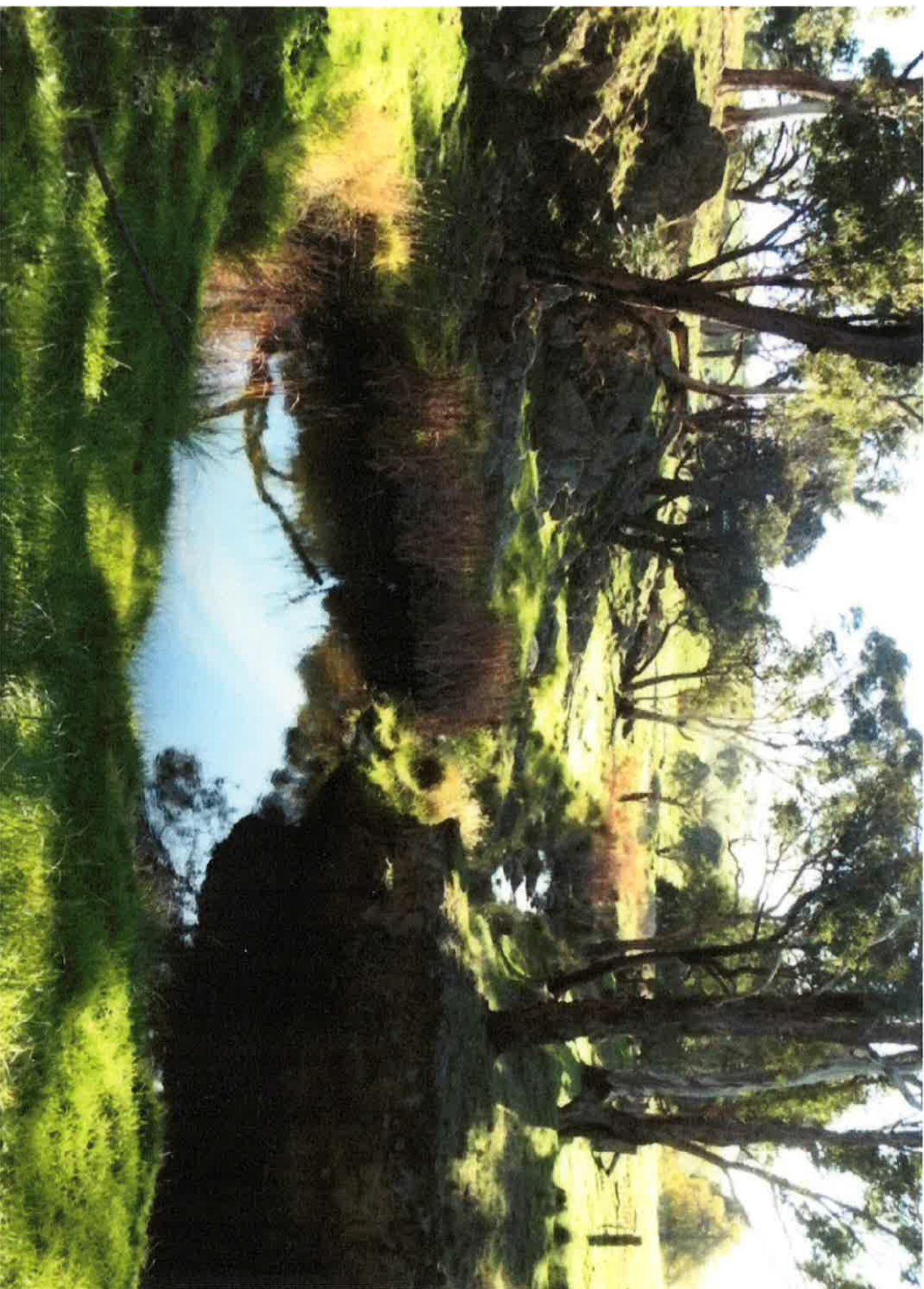
David Sainsbury



Reference

Luke Pearce, (2015) *Surveys, monitoring and conservation status of Southern Pygmy Perch (Nannoperca australis) within Blakney and Pudman Creeks*, NSW Department of Primary Industries.

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Fickney - Pudman Junction



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